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**STATE OF VERMONT  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Wind Energy Commission to Hold Public Hearings**

The Governor-appointed Commission on Wind Energy Regulatory Policy will hold a series of public hearings to seek input on whether the current regulatory approval process for power generation facilities is sufficient for the development of large-scale commercial wind farms in Vermont. The Commission will provide final recommendations in a written report, which will be submitted in December.

Historically, utility projects have been proposed by utilities under Title 30, Section 248 of the Vermont Statutes with final approval by the Public Service Board (the state utility commission). All other commercial development has been the purview of local zoning, planning and the Act 250 process at the regional and state level. Over the years many components of Act 250 have been integrated into the Section 248 review criteria, such as regional plan compliance and aesthetic impact.

The purpose of the first two public hearings will be to seek input on the applicability of the current regulatory process for the permitting of commercial wind projects. The third hearing in Montpelier will give the public an opportunity to hear the Commission's proposed recommendations and to provide feedback on those recommendations. The public is asked to focus input on the regulatory approval process and not on whether commercial wind development is appropriate in Vermont.

The dates and locations of the hearings are:

**October 12, 2004**

6:30 – 8:30 pm  
Holiday Inn  
476 Route 7 South  
Rutland, VT

**October 26, 2004**

6:30 – 8:30 pm  
St. Johnsbury Elementary  
257 Western Ave  
St. Johnsbury, VT

**November 16, 2004**

1:30 – 3:30 pm  
Pavilion Building Auditorium  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT

Additional information on the Commission is available online at <http://www.state.vt.us/psd/>

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